

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-20

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USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 SSO-00

CCO-00 EB-11 INT-08 AGR-20 NIC-01 /186 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9408

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO UNN

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TAGS: PFOR, CO CI

SUBJECT: CONTINUED COLOMBIA REACTION TO EVENTS IN CHILE

REF: BOGOTA 7537

1. THE CHILEAN SITUATION CONTINUES TO RECEIVE MAJOR COVERAGE IN ALL BOGOTA NEWSPAPERS, IN BOTH THE NEWS AND EDITORIAL SECTIONS. EDITORIAL COMMENT IS EXTENSIVE, AS LOCAL PUNDITS OFFER ANALYSIS BOTH OF THE CAUSES OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS AND THE COURSES OF ACTION OPEN TO CHILE'S MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

2. PRESIDENT PASTRANA, WHO HAS MADE NO PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE GOLPE, SENT CONDOLENCES TO MRS. ALLENDE, RECALLING DR. ALLENDE'S VISIT TO COLOMBIA IN SEPTEMBER 1971 AS AN OCCASION THAT, DESPITE DIFFERENCES OF POLITICAL OUTLOOK, GAVE RISE TO A PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER VASQUEZ, ACCORDING TO PRES REPORTS, CONSIDERES THE CHILEAN GOLPE A BLOW TO DEMOCRACY, AND NOTED THAT THERE HAD OCCURRED "NOT ONLY THE DEATH OF AN ILLUSTRIOUS MAN, BUT WITHOUT DOUBT THE SINKING OF A DEMOCRACY". IN REGARD TO COLOMBIAN-CHILEAN RELATIONS, HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS WERE SUSPENDED PENDING DEVELOPMENTS AND THAT THE GOC WOULD

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WAIT TO SEE THE POLICIES THAT THE NEW CHILEAN RULERS WOULD

PURSUE.

4. LIBERAL PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LOPEZ MICHELSON ALUJ EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE CHILEAN EVENTS AND TOOK THE OCCASION TO AT-TRIBUTE, IN PART, THE VIOLENT END OF THE ALLENDE REGIME TO POLICIES SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT HE WISHES TO SEE DISCONTINUED IN COLOMBIA. HE RE-CALLED HIS STUDENT DAYS IN CHILE, DURING WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS "THE GOLDEN DAYS OF CHILEAN DEMOCRACY" AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT SUBSEQUENT CHILEAN RDKQMES BECAME OBSESSED WITH DEVELOPMENT AND WERE INTERESTED ONLY IN GROWTH FIGURES, MAKING IT NECESSARY FOR THE CHILEANS TO TURN

FIRST TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THEN TO ALLENDE IN AN EFFORT TO REGAIN THE LOST TIME DURING WHICH DEVELOPMENT WAS PURSUED WITHOUT RE-GARD TO SOCIAL JUSTICE. THIS OBSERVATION IS SIMILAR TO SOME OF LOPEZ RECENT CRITICISM OF THE PASTRANA REGIME. LOPEZ WENT ON, HOWEVER, TO POINT OUT THE BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE COOPER BASED CHILEAN ECONOMY, WITH ITS REQUIREMENT FOR HEAVY FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND THE COFFEE BASED COLOMBIAN ECONOMY.

5. ANAPO PRES CANDIDATE MARIA EUGENIA ROJAS DE MORENO POINT-ED TO THE CHILEAN GOLPE AS PROOF THAT OLIGARCHIES CAN BE DEFEATED ONLY

BY AN OVERWHELMING POPULAR MAJORITY WHICH VOTES FOR CHANGE". SHE ALSO SAID THAT SHE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT ALLENDE COMMITTED SUICIDE. ALLENDE, SHE AVERRED, DIED LIKE A HERO.

6. VISITING ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU, IN HIS EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET OVER THE GOLPE, REFERRED TO THE DEATH OF ALLENDE AS "A TREACHEROUS ASSASSINATION". HE REFERRED TO THE ALLENDE OVERTHROW AS "A BLOW TO THE LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLES STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION".

7 THE EFFORTS OF EXTREME LEFTIST LEADERS TO GENERATE CONFRONTA-TIONS WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE NOT MET WITH SUCCESS. DEMONSTRAT-IONS CONTINUE TO BE ALMOST ENTIRELY CONFINED TO CAMPUS AREAS, AND

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS A MARCH FROM THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY TO THE CAPITAL, HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED AS OF THE AFTERNOON OF SEPT 13.
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